

## Summary

Personal names in the 1312 land tax register from Hållnäs parish in Uppland

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The land tax registers (*markgäldslängder*) of 1312, covering fifteen parishes in northern Uppland, are unique and invaluable as sources of information about the peasant names of earlier times, since such sources are not generally available. The register from Hållnäs parish is of particular interest for a study of the name stock, in that the parish was far away from the direct influence exerted by the ecclesiastical centre of Uppsala, and because almost all its inhabitants were recorded in the register. None or very few of the parishioners are believed to have been tenants of the church or the nobility who were exempt from taxation and therefore remained unregistered.

The Hållnäs register lists 135 tax-paying peasants, who bear 90 different names. Only four tax-paying women are included, with as many different names. The great majority of the names are Scandinavian, of the variation type. Many names (e.g. *Kätilbiorn*) and name elements (e.g. *-fast/-vast*) in the Hållnäs register are primarily to be found in Uppland or eastern parts of the country, several names are uncommon (e.g. *Runälf*), and others are otherwise unknown (e.g. *Thorhvat*) in medieval Sweden. Very few individuals bear the same name, and bynames do not occur together with the Scandinavian names. A large number of names are shortened forms of variation names (e.g. *Sille*). There are also many un-compounded forms (e.g. *Thiägn*) and a few bynames (e.g. *Krok*). Christian names make up some 10 per cent of the name stock, but are borne by 43 individuals, and it is some of these who are distinguished by bynames.

As late as 1312, after almost a couple of centuries of strong influence from the church, the nomenclature of Hållnäs is remarkably stable and so highly reminiscent of the wealth of names recorded in Uppland's runic inscriptions that it can be described as exhibiting unbroken continuity from prehistoric times.